



Procurement Fraud in Iraq

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Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Special Inspector General For Iraq Reconstruction

Mr. Brian Persico
Procurement Fraud Branch



Overview

- Old CPA Contracting Structure
- Current Contracting Structure
 - Summary of JCC-I/A Contracting Activities
 - Summary of ACOE Contracting Activities
 - Other Contracting Activities
- Procurement Fraud Advisors
- CID Activity
- Special Inspector General For Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR)
- Issues
- CPA-SC Cases

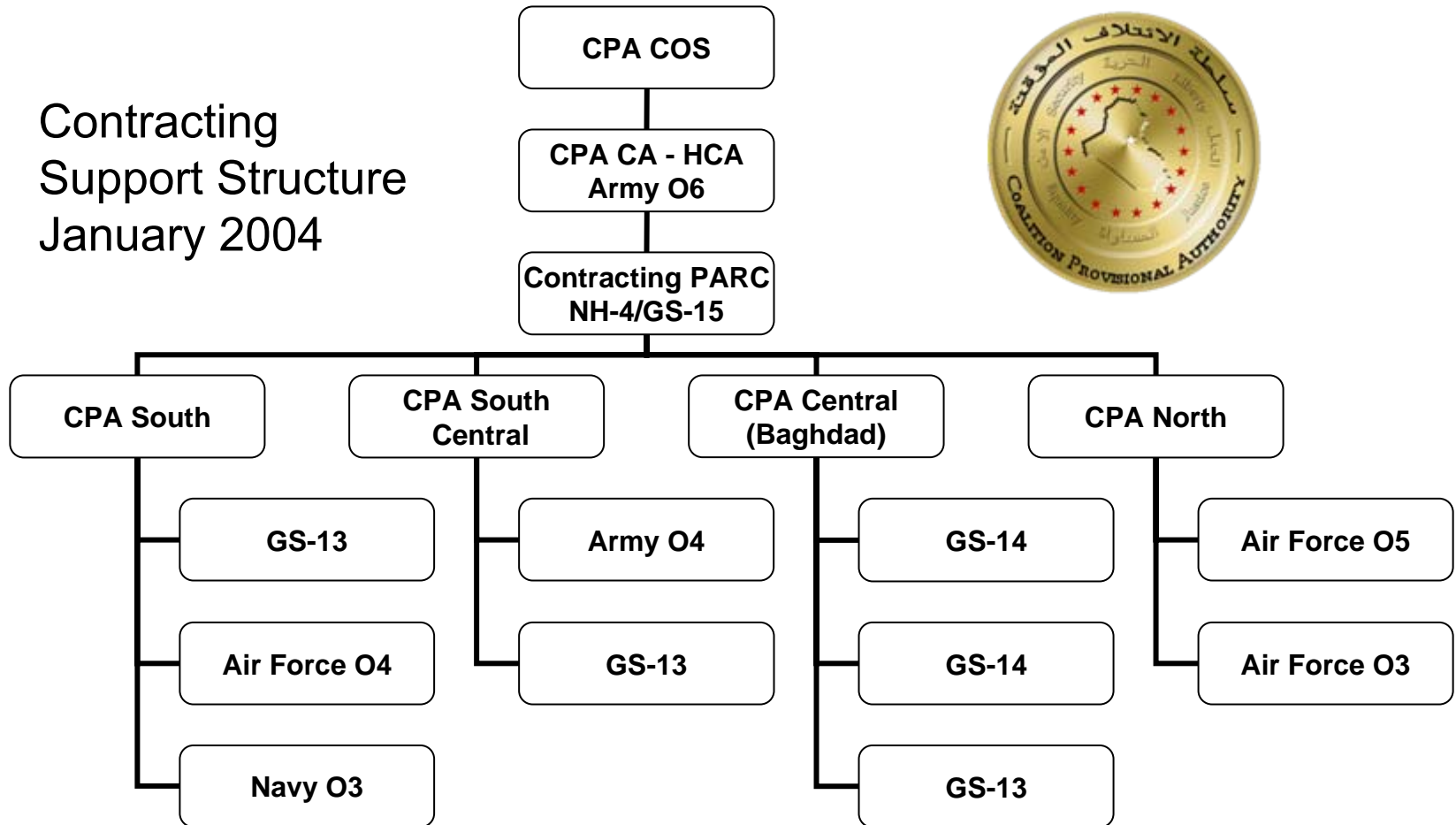


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Old CPA Contracting Structure

Contracting
Support Structure
January 2004

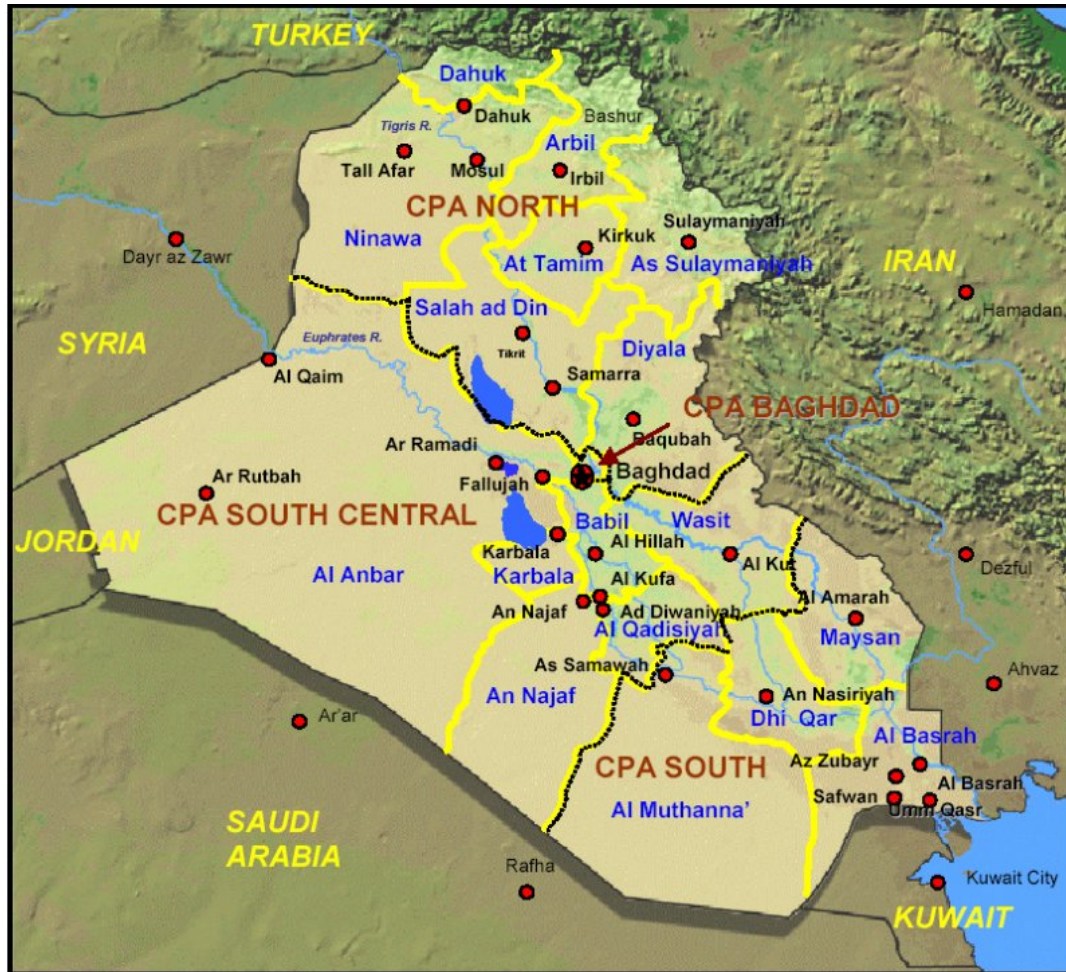


Source: Contract Support Briefing, Col Tony Bell, CPA-CA, HCA, January 2004

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CPA Structure: Geographic Divisions



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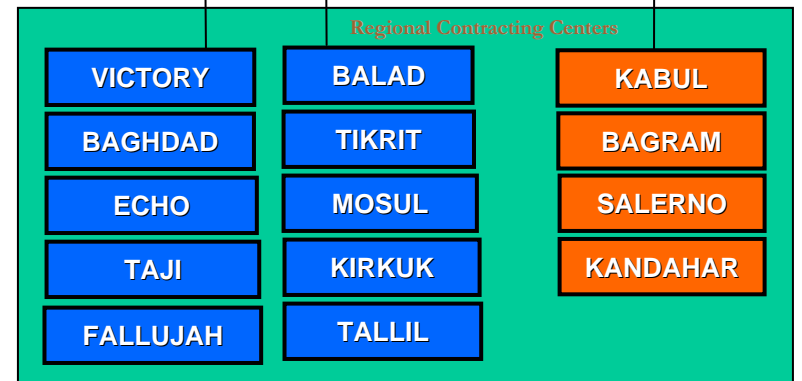
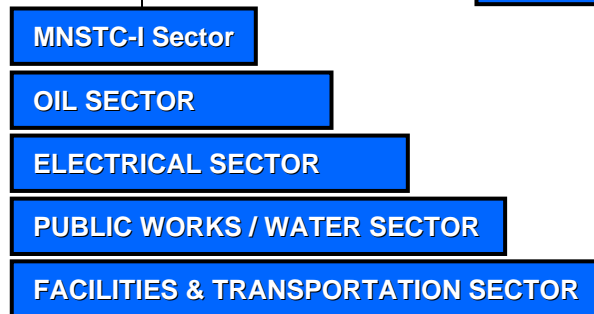
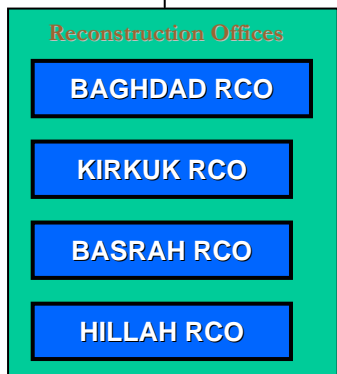
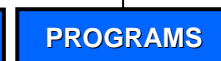
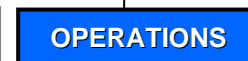


Current Contracting Structure

- Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan is direct successor to CPA contracting entities
 - Activities Coordinated with Chief of Diplomatic Mission
 - Organizationally Subordinate to Multi-National Forces Iraq Commander
 - Afghanistan contracting is a minor part of activities – support provided when necessary
 - Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology has been delegated Executive Agent authority by Secretary of Defense via the Secretary of the Army
 - Two Principal Assistants for Contracting (PARC) are created
 - PARC-Forces
 - PARC-Reconstruction
- Army Corps of Engineers assumes management and oversight of infrastructure reconstruction activities
- Defense Contract Management Agency provides contract management support



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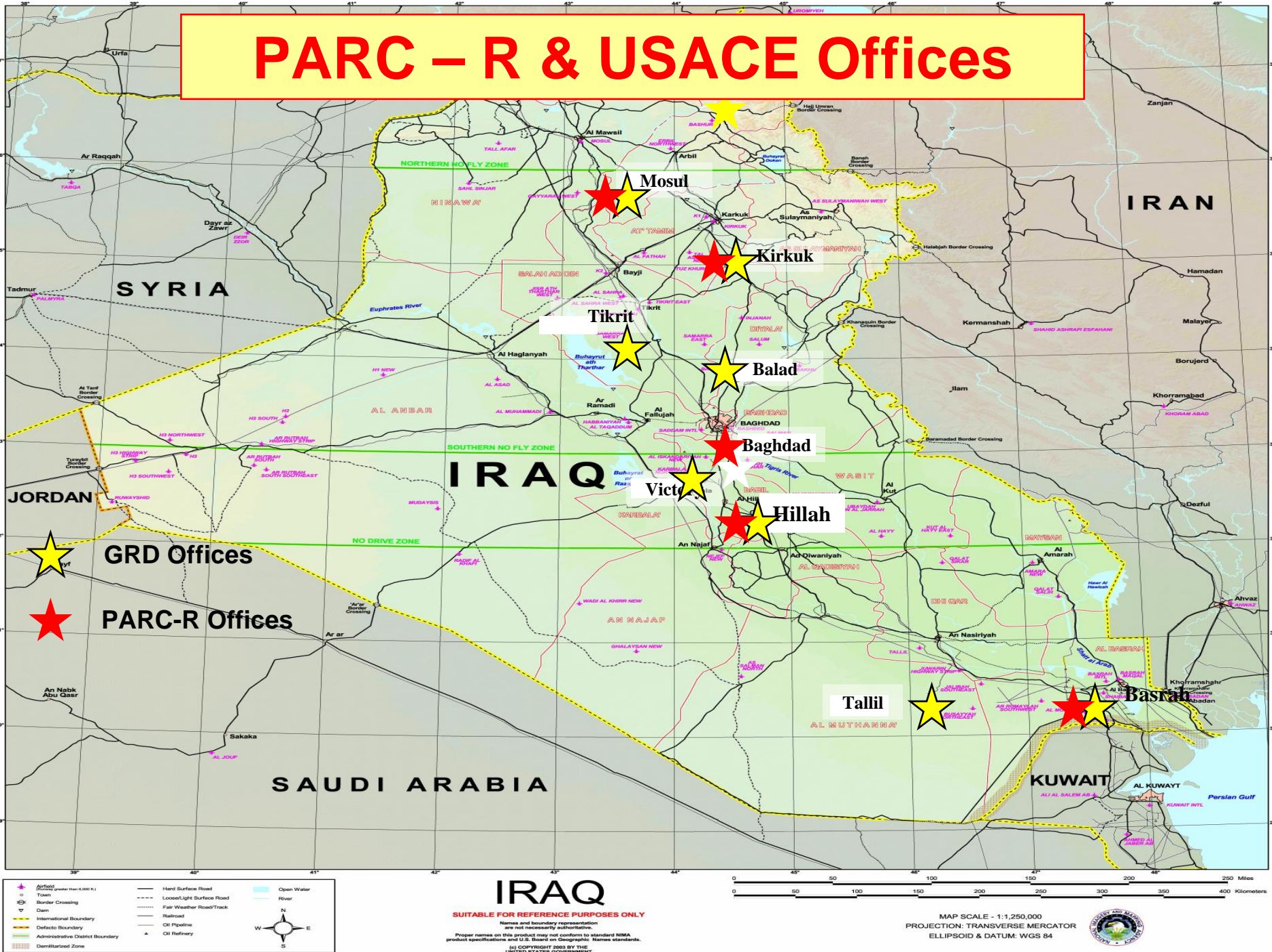


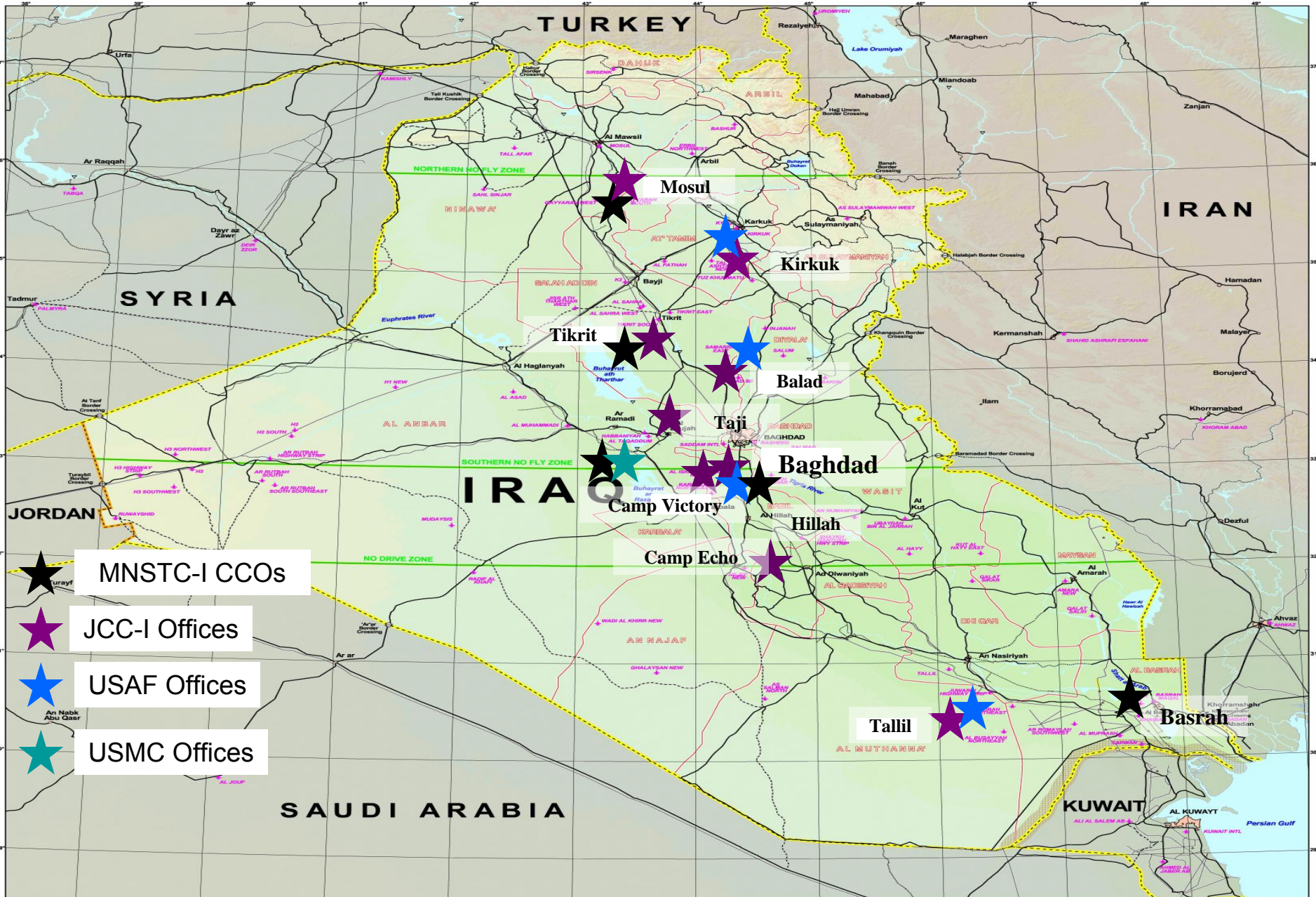
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PARC – R & USACE Offices





Airfield (greater than 5,000 ft.)

Town

Border Crossing

Open

International Boundary

Defacto Boundary

Administrative District Boundary

Demilitarized Zone

Hard Surface Road

Loose/Light Surface Road

Fair Weather Road/Track

Railroad

Oil Pipeline

Oil Refinery

Open Water

River

N

E

S

W

IRAQ

SUITABLE FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY

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0

50

100

150

200

250

300

350

400

Miles

0

50

100

150

200

250

300

350

400

Kilometers

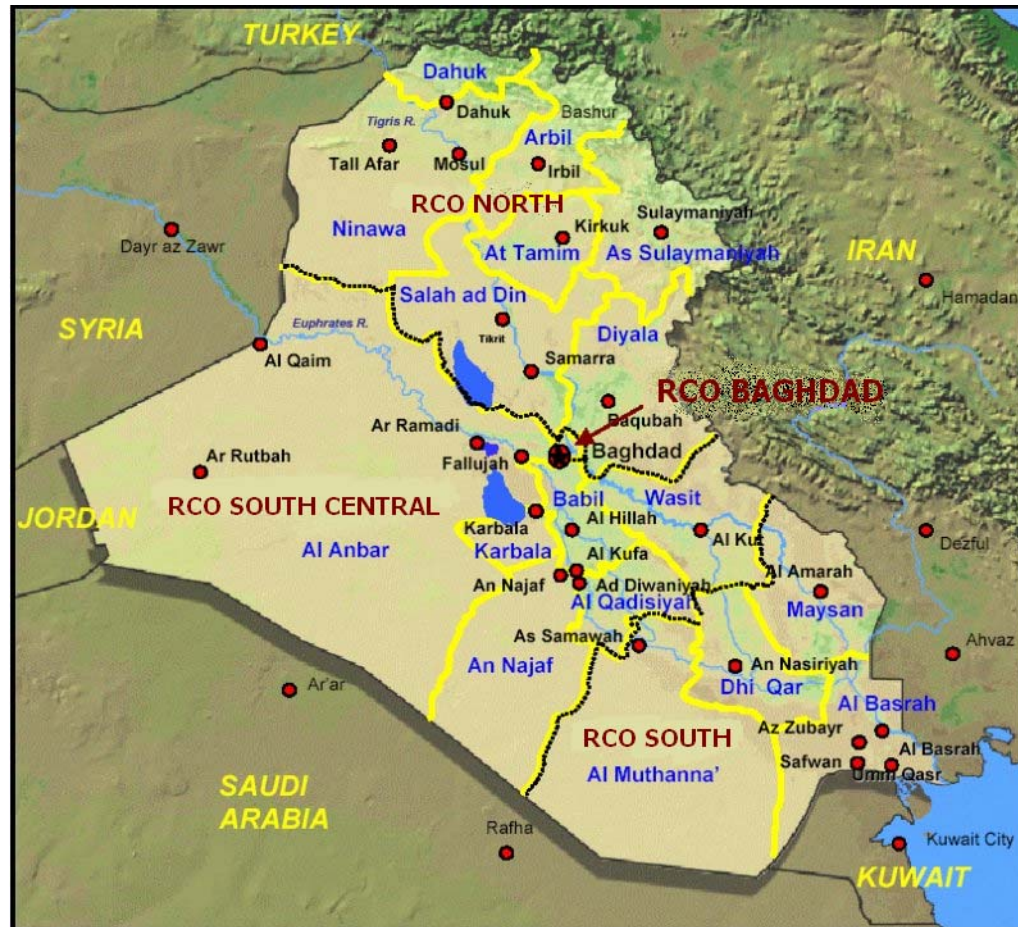
MAP SCALE - 1:1,250,000

PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR

ELLIPSOID & DATUM: WGS 84



RCO Structure: Geographic Divisions



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JCC-I Contracting Activities

- JCC-I is primary contracting office in Iraq and Afghanistan
 - Currently has 2 JAGs for contract review, command support and PFA duties
- Main elements:
 - Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting – Forces
 - Direct contracting support to U.S. and Allied forces
 - Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting – Reconstruction
 - MNSTC-I
 - 4 Regional Contracting Offices
 - 4 Economic Sector Offices – Oil, Electricity, Water, Facilities/Transportation
 - Responsible for oversight of all reconstruction activities





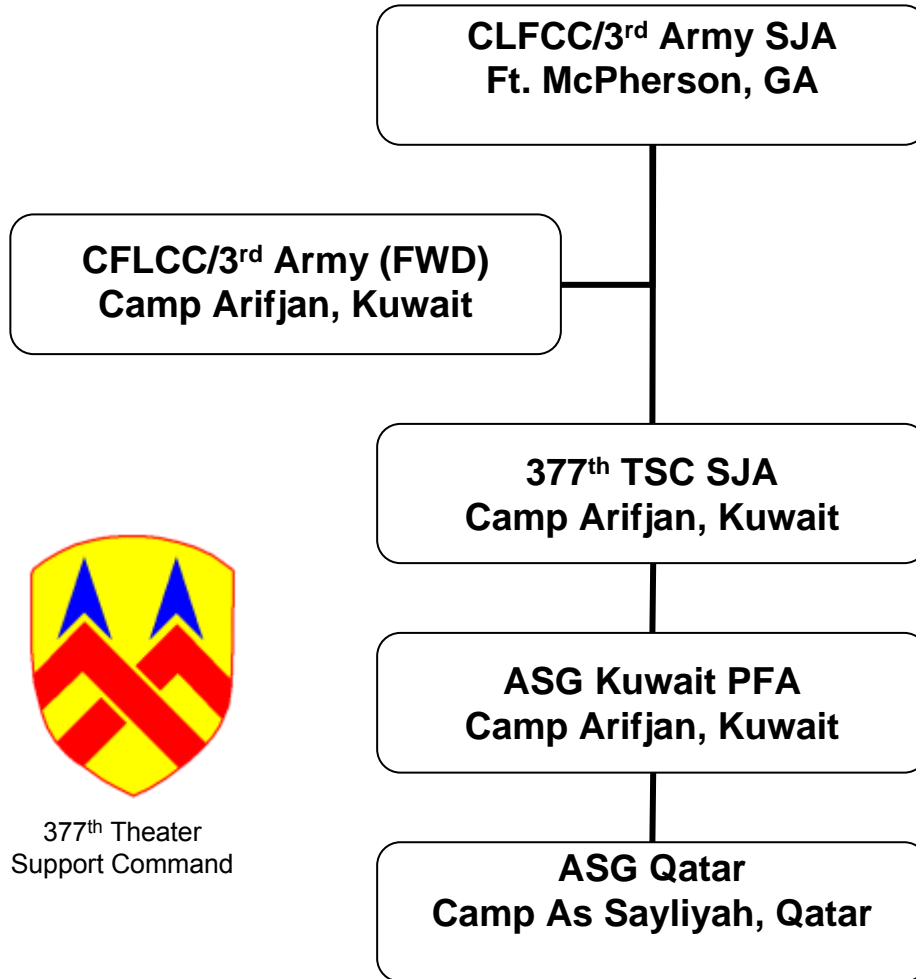
ACOE Contracting Activities

- Officially Separate from JCC-I/A contracting structure
- Gulf Regional Division
 - Provides engineering services in the Iraq combat theater to MNF-I and the Interim Iraqi Government with planning, design and construction management support for military and civil infrastructure construction
 - Funded via \$18.5 bil Congressional appropriation for reconstruction
- Project and Contracting Office
 - Contracts for and delivers services, supplies, and infrastructure identified within the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund for rebuilding Iraq.
 - Direct Successor to CPA infrastructure contracting authority
 - Funded with Development Fund for Iraq funds





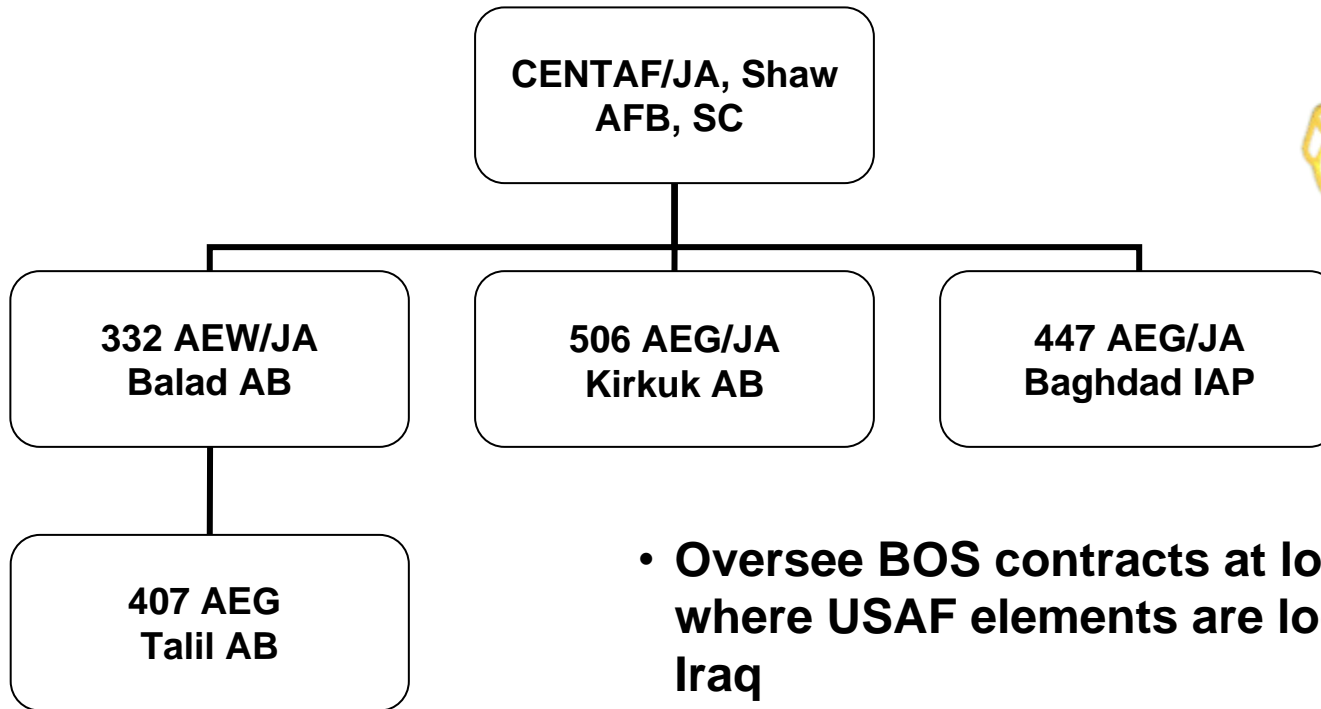
Other Contracting Activities



- Responsible for all contracting outside of Iraq and Afghanistan
- Provide service/support to units arriving and departing CENTCOM AOR
- Oversee surface transportation contracts for items and personnel from Kuwait to Iraq
- Provide Base Operating Support (BOS) contracting for facilities in Kuwait and Qatar



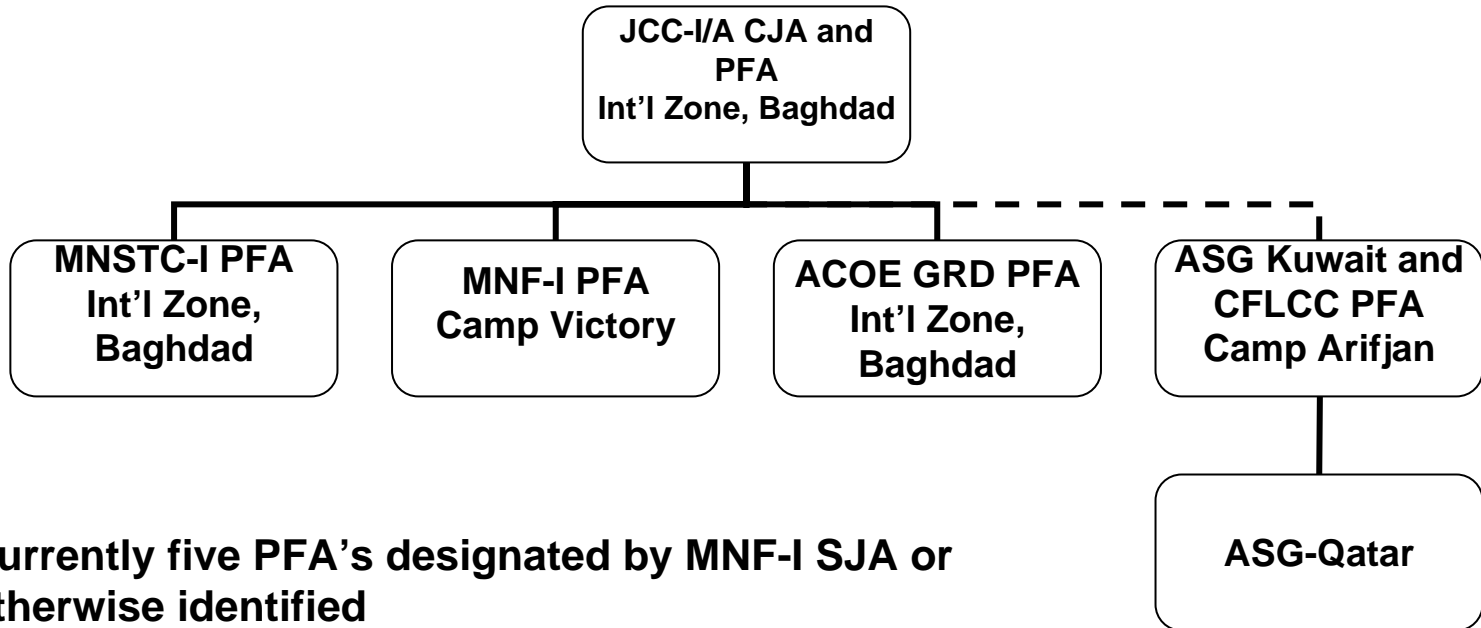
Other Contracting Activities



- **Oversee BOS contracts at locations where USAF elements are located in Iraq**
- **Some overlap with JCC-I/A activities**
- **Other activities in Kuwait and Qatar**



Procurement Fraud Advisors



- Currently five PFA's designated by MNF-I SJA or otherwise identified
- ASG-Kuwait and CFLCC PFA is not in JCC-I/A direct chain of command
- All PFAs are on 1 year deployments, regardless of parent service
- All PFAs are experienced contracting attorneys



CID Activity

- CID has established dedicated procurement fraud offices at Camp Victory (4 agents) and in the Int'l Zone (2 agents)
 - Agents are drawn from Major Procurement Fraud Unit
 - Only duty is investigation of Procurement Fraud cases
- In contact with JCC-I/A, MNSTC-I and SIGIR personnel
 - Agents have been given offices by JCC-I/A
 - Work with regular CID agents located at FOBs
- Will pass on all information regarding Iraqi nationals directly to PFB for suspension/debarment action
 - Third country nationals will be forwarded if no DoJ interest



Issues

- **Release of information from SIGIR and CID**
 - Both agencies interested in providing information, especially with regard to Iraqi nationals
 - Arrangements made with SIGIR and CID to start flow of information directly to PFB
- **PFA's**
 - Training
 - Frequent Rotation of Personnel
 - Multiple Duties – EX: JCC-I PFA is Command SJA, also reviews all contracts, also responsible for oversight of procurement fraud actions
 - Inadequate Staff – PFA Job is Extra Duty
 - Oversight of Regional Contracting Offices by JCC-I/A PFA – Overall Lack of Mobility
 - No PFA identified specifically for Afghanistan
- **Procedure for Suspension/Debarment of Iraqi nationals**
 - Due Process issues – notice, opportunity to present evidence in mitigation by Iraqi nationals
 - Camp Arifjan “White Book”
 - List of contractors formerly kept by the ASG-Kuwait contracting office
 - Discontinued because of due process questions



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SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION



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November 6, 2003
P.L. 108-106
creates **CPA-IG**

January 20,
2004
Stuart W.
Bowen, Jr.
appointed
CPA-IG

March 30,
2004
First
Report to
Congress

Mar

June 28, 2004
CPA dissolved

Jul

October 28,
2004
P.L. 108-375
re-designates
office as **SIGIR**

Oct

Jan

Apr

Jul

Oct

Jan

Apr

November 14,
2005
P.L. 109-102
extends **SIGIR**

2003

2004

2005

2006

100

staff

1

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Regarding U.S. reconstruction plans, programs, and operations in Iraq, SIGIR provides independent and objective:

- ☐ oversight and review through comprehensive audits, inspections, and investigations
- ☐ advice and recommendations on policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness
- ☐ deterrence of malfeasance through the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse
- ☐ information and analysis to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Congress, and the American people through Quarterly Reports



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- ❖ Temporary organization with oversight responsibility over the \$18.4 Billion Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF)
- ❖ Will terminate 10 months after 80% of IRRF is expended
 - ❖ Current termination approximately Fall 2007
- ❖ IRRF Status as of **May 2, 2006**
 - ❖ **90%** Obligated
 - ❖ **65%** Expended

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SIGIR ORGANIZATION

Secretary of State

Secretary of Defense

Inspector General
Stuart W. Bowen, Jr.
Deputy Inspector General
Ginger M. Cruz

General Counsel
Frank Campbell

Chief of Staff
Nick Arntson

Senior Advisor
Michael Boisvenue

Director of Operations Baghdad
Michael Franks

Assistant Inspector General
Investigations
Jim Byrne

Assistant Inspector General
Inspections
Brian Flynn

Assistant Inspector General
Audit
Mickey McDermott

Chief Information Officer
Chris Williams

Assistant Inspector General
Congressional & Public Affairs
Jim Mitchell

Director of Publications
Scott Michaud

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**Washington, D.C.
Crystal City, VA**

**120 Staff
Audits, Investigations
Quarterly Report, Support**

**Baghdad, Iraq
Presidential Palace
US Embassy**

**45-55 Staff
Auditors & Investigators**





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GAO “21ST CENTURY IG”

OVERSIGHT:

- Audits
- Inspections
- Investigations

INSIGHT:

- Consult with management
- Measuring Progress (Sec.2)
- SIRIS
- Quarterly Reports

FORESIGHT:

- Emerging Issues – IG Observations
- Lessons Learned

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PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

AUDIT

Reports issued 55
Recommendations issued 165
Financial impact of audits \$392 million

INSPECTIONS

Special Assessments issued..... 43
Limited preliminary assessments issued..... 97
Satellite imagery reports issued..... 112
Financial impact of inspections \$1.3 billion

INVESTIGATIONS

Open investigations 73
Arrests 5
Value of assets seized/recovered.....\$13 million

HOTLINE CONTACTS

Total Hotline Contacts 470

NON-AUDIT PRODUCTS

Congressional Testimony 5
Lessons Learned Reports issued 1
Lessons Learned Forums held 3

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70+ Open Cases

\$13 M seized/recovered



Faheem M. Salam
Translator



Philip Bloom
Contractor



Lt. Col. Michael Wheeler
CPA Official



Robert Stein
CPA Regional Comptroller



Lt. Col. Deborah Harrison
CPA Official



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SIGIR Investigations

- Lead Generation
 - Investigations section - 10 agents in Iraq
 - Audits section - 26 auditors in Iraq
 - Inspections section- 7 inspectors in Iraq
 - Hotline
 - Reputation

SIGIR Hotline

YOUR CHANNEL TO REPORT
Fraud, Waste, Abuse in
Iraq
Reconstruction

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-301-2003

24-hours a day
[Hotline Information](#)



SIGIR Investigations

- Investigative tools
 - 14 Investigators (10 Iraq, 4+ Arlington)
 - Partnerships with
 - Department of State, Office of the Inspector General
 - Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General
 - US Army, Criminal Investigations Division (Iraq & US)
 - Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 - Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division
 - Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation *
 - Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
 - United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Fraud and Public Corruption Section
 - Department of Justice, Criminal Division (Public Integrity, Fraud, and Asset Forfeiture & Money Laundering Sections)



SIGIR Investigations



CASE ALLEGATIONS OPENED OR CONVERTED SINCE JANUARY 2006

INVESTIGATIVE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS
Theft/Larceny	17
Bribery/Kickbacks/Gratuities	15
False Claims/Improper Billing	9
Embezzlement	6
Contract Fraud/Contract Irregularities	14
Computer Crimes	1
Suspicious Death(s)	1
Proprietary Information	2
Waste and Abuse	2
Other	5
Total	72

Arrests: 5

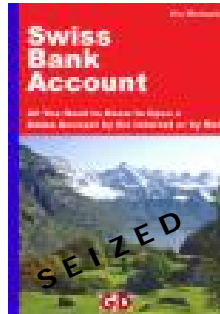
Convictions: 2

Recovered Assets

- Seized/Forfeitures - \$13,011,304
- Cost Savings/Avoidance - \$4,828,464



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- www.sigir.mil
- Full copies of all Quarterly Reports to Congress
- All audits & inspections
- Summary of Iraq Reconstruction Progress
- Arabic translations of reports and recent audits



SIGIR: INDEPENDENT & OBJECTIVE OVERSIGHT

Welcome to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR), a temporary federal agency serving the American public as a watchdog for fraud, waste, and abuse of funds intended for Iraq reconstruction programs.

SIGIR, the successor to the Coalition Provisional Authority Inspector General (CPA-IG), was created by Congress to perform one focused mission—to execute critical oversight of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) allocated for rehabilitation projects. SIGIR oversight is accomplished via independent audits, field inspections, and criminal investigations into potential fraud, waste, and abuse of funds.

[Learn About SIGIR](#)



SIGIR Leadership

Stuart W. Bowen, Jr., who served as the CPA-IG since January 30, 2004, continues as the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. His office produces quarterly reports to Congress outlining key findings on the progress and management of Iraq reconstruction efforts, including recommendations for corrective action. [Message from the Inspector General](#) (5/3/06 PDF)



Iraq Reconstruction: Lessons Learned in Human Capital Management

SIGIR releases its first report of the Lessons Learned Initiative, designed to enhance on- as well as future U.S. reconstruction and stabilization planning. Experts drawn from government and academia, including many who served in Iraq, participated in establishing these findings and recommendations. [Access Report](#), (4/16/06 PDF)



Investigation Leads to New Arrest

SIGIR investigations resulted in new arrests related to Iraq reconstruction efforts.



التقارير العربية

يُطلب القانون من الممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق تقديم تقارير ربع سنوية إلى الكونغرس الأمريكي في موعد لا يتجاوز 30 يوماً بعد انتهاء كل ربع من أرباع السنة المالية، بحيث يتم تقديمه إلى اللجنة ذات الاختصاص. هذا التقرير يقدم ملخصاً للشكايات التي يقوم بها الممثل العام والشكايات بموجب الفرائض والمخيمات التي يواجهها مستوردو إعمار وإدارة إعمار العراق.

الممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق يطلب أيضاً بتكوين بتقرير نصف سنوية لشكايات قانون الممثل العام لعام 1976 في يوم 31 كانون الثاني/يناير و 31 آذار/أبريل من كل سنة. هذا التقرير نصف سنوية يهدف إلى توفير رؤية أعمق للممثل العام وإدارة إعمار العراق، التي يضمن مواءمة ما في كانون الثاني/يناير وأذار/أبريل. التقارير ربع السنوية ونصف السنوية موجهة لمتى عنوان تقارير الكونغرس.

نتائج تقارير الشكايات التي يقوم بها الممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق يتم في المقام الأول يتم عنوان "تقرير الشكايات". هذا التقرير يقدم صوراً تقارير تأخذ في يومها الممثل العام وتضمن توصيات. ونحن لا نضع الشكايات عن توصيات من قبل الممثل العام. يتم إعداد "تقرير ملخص". يتم إعداد ملخص الشكايات للممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق. ملخصاً للمالية تتضمن فوائده الممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق لعامين 2005 و 2006.

الممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق يتم تقارير ثلثي مهمة عنوان "تقرير ثلثي". هذا لا يشمل على تقارير قصيرة وإشارات أخرى حسب متطلبات الكونغرس.

تُرحب توجيه ملاحظات الاستفسار عن هذا التقرير إلى غير الممثلات العامة الممثل العام لإدارة إعمار العراق عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني أو الاتصال بالهاتف: 1-800-428-703.

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Case Study: CPA South Central Contracting Fraud





CPA Funding

- **Projects funded from Development Fund for Iraq (DFI)**
 - Established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483 (21 May 2003)
 - Held in the account at Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the Central Bank of Iraq
 - DFI-Baghdad account at the Central Bank of Iraq, meets cash payment requirements in country
 - Funded from oil exports, repatriated and vested funds, UN donations and other payments
 - Disbursements are in support of food, currency exchange, electricity and oil infrastructure programs, equipment for security forces, civil service salaries and ministry budget operation
- **Cash flow as of January 2004**
 - \$20.6 billion received
 - \$13 billion disbursed



CPA South Central - 2004

- Headquartered in Al Hillah, Iraq
- Includes Al Anbar, An Najaf, Karbala, Al Qadisiyah, Wasit and Babil Provinces
 - Includes “Sunni Triangle” and other areas of frequent insurgent activity
 - Majority of projects in and around the cities of Karbala, Al Hillah, An Najaf, and Ad Diwainiyh
- Security Responsibility divided between I MEF and Multinational Division - Central Sector (MND (CS))
 - MND (CS) - 1st AD and Polish/Spanish/Ukrainian Division – supported by 358th Civil Affairs Brigade (USAR)



SIGIR Investigation - Findings

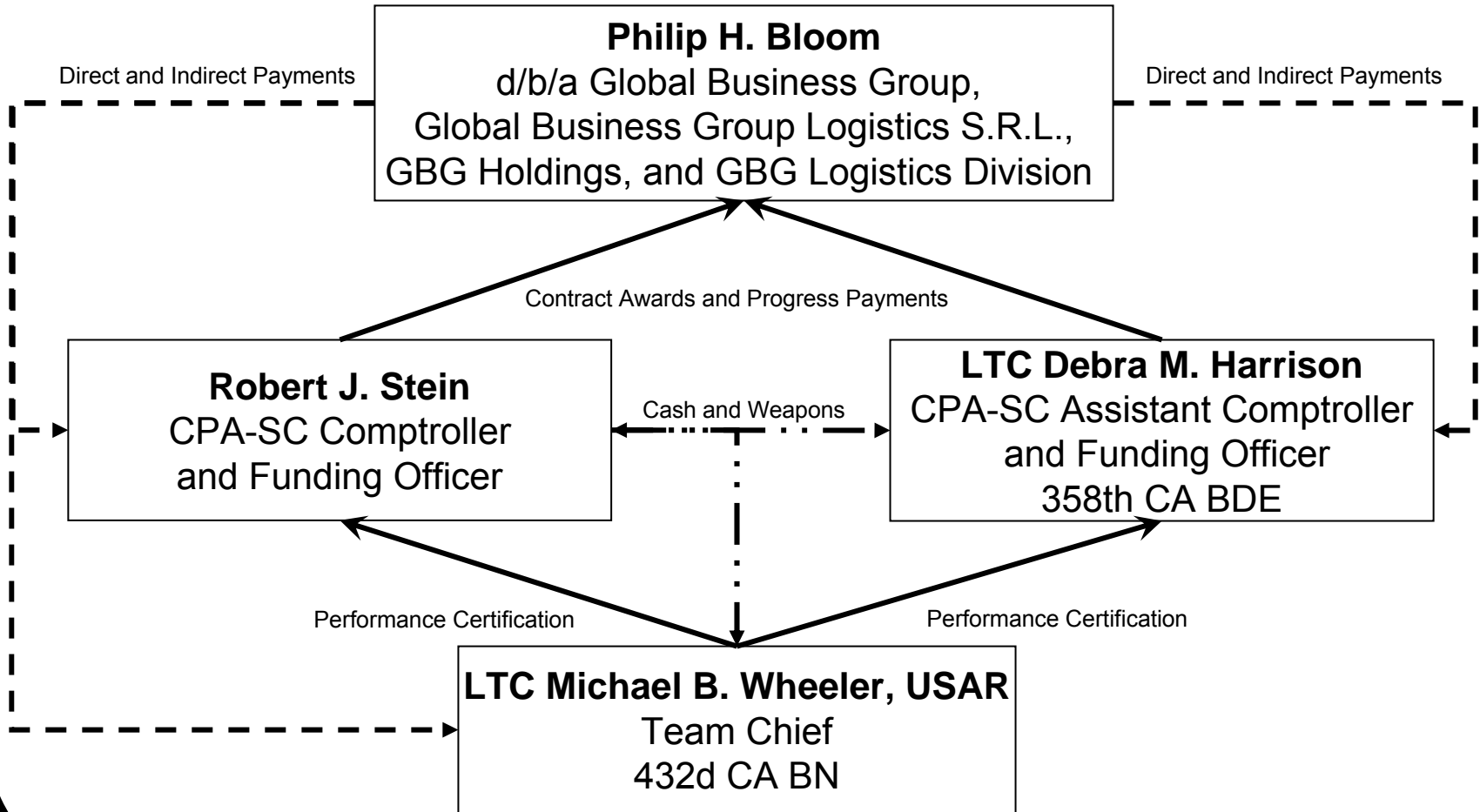
- Audit of CPA-SC finances conducted in late 2004
- Fraud, bid-rigging and bribery discovered on numerous CPS-SC contracts
 - Use of fake or excessively “high” bids designed to enable contracting officers to award the winning “low” bid to companies controlled by co-conspirators
 - “High” bids were submitted in the names of different companies controlled by co-conspirators or were fictitious in nature
 - Project progress and completion certified by other co-conspirators
 - Contract value set at under \$500k to avoid review by CPA CA
 - Payments of up to \$498K made via CPA Form 44 intended for purchases of \$15K or less to avoid review
 - Contracting Officers and Civil Affairs Officers receive payments of DFI funds for participation as well as payments from contractors



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SIGIR Investigation



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SIGIR Investigation

- **Contracts Known to be Affected**

- Construction of Regional Tribal Democracy Center – \$397,000
- 500kv Generator for Babil Government Building - \$95,000
- 500kv Generator for Regional Tribal Democracy Center - \$105, 000
- Demolition of Ba’ath Party Headquarters and Grading of Al-Hillah Police Academy Site – \$452,800
- Security Facility Upgrades at Al-Hillah Police Academy – \$448,500
- Renovation of Karbala Library – \$373,400
- Landscaping of Karbala Library – \$197, 500
- Furniture for Karbala Library – \$224, 010
- Internet Capability, Karbala Library – \$498, 900
- **Total Value - \$2,982,610**





Philip H. Bloom

- **President and sole stockholder of Global Business Group S.R.L., a construction and management consulting services company headquartered in Bucharest, Romania**
- **Conducted business in Iraq as Global Business Group (GBG), Global Business Group Logistics S.R.L., GBG Holdings, and GBG Logistics Division**
- **Charges pending:**
 - **18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud)**
 - **18 U.S.C. § 2314 (Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property)**
 - **18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy)**
 - **18 U.S.C. §§ 1956-1957 (Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)**
 - **Additional charges may be added**
- **Arrested 13 November 2005 upon arrival in Newark, N.J.**
 - **Cooperating with SIGIR and DoJ**
 - **Suspended by Army SDO on 28 November 2005**



Robert J. Stein, Jr.

- **CPA-SC Comptroller and Funding Officer**
 - Awarded contracts to Bloom as part of bid-rigging scheme
 - Authorized cash payments to Bloom despite defective or non-performance of contract terms
 - Employee of S&K Technologies as part of contract with Army for administrative support in Iraq
 - Controlled expenditure of approximately \$82 mil in DFI funds
- **Has a 1996 conviction for violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1029 (Fraud and related activity in connection with access devices – i.e. credit card fraud)**
 - Sentenced to 8 months confinement and ordered to pay \$45,339.25 in restitution
- **Arrested 15 November 2005 in Fayetteville, NC**
 - Cooperating with SIGIR and DoJ
 - Suspended by Army SDO on 2 December 2005



Robert J. Stein, Jr. (cont.)

- **Known Payments Received:**

- **\$434,348.00 in direct and indirect payments**
- **Weapons valuing approximately \$69,620.00**
 - 4 M-203 grenade launchers
 - 20 HK53A3 fully-automatic submachine guns
 - 12 SA58 .308 caliber machine guns
 - 12 MK23 .45 caliber pistols
 - 100 5.56 caliber 30 round magazines
 - 4 MK23 .45 caliber silencers
 - 60 Mk23 .45 caliber magazines



- **Charges Pending:**

- 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 2314 (Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy)
 - 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956-1957 (Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)
- Additional charges may be added



LTC Michael B. Wheeler

- **Army Reservist assigned to 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion as a Team Chief**
 - Responsible for implementing civil affairs operations and overseeing contracting progress in Al Hillah, Iraq
 - Drafted contract specifications for affected projects
 - Certified completion of work and authorized cash payments to Bloom despite defective or non-performance of contract terms
 - Improperly authorized the release of military weapons from 3rd SFG armory, Ft. Bragg, NC and gave them to Stein
- **Known Payments Received:**
 - Transported \$100,000.00 cash in DFI funds from Iraq to CONUS for his personal use upon completion of his deployment
 - Received 2 .45 caliber pistols and two HK53A3 submachine guns from Stein



LTC Michael B. Wheeler (cont.)

- **Charges Pending:**
 - 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 654 (Officer or Employee of the United States Wrongfully Converting Property of Another)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 922(o) (Possession of a Machine Gun)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 5861(d) (Receipt or Possession of a Firearm Not Registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record)
 - 18 U.S.C. 201 (Bribery)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 2314 (Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property)
 - 18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy)
 - 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956-1957 (Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)
 - Additional charges may be added
- **Arrested 30 November 2005 in Amherst Junction, WI**
 - Suspended by Army SDO on 7 December 2005



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LTC Debra M. Harrison

- **Army Reservist assigned to 358th Civil Affairs Brigade as Assistant CPA-SC Comptroller and Funding Officer**
 - **Awarded contracts to Bloom as part of bid-rigging scheme**
 - **Authorized cash payments to Bloom despite defective or non-performance of contract terms**
 - **Reported to Stein and upon his departure assumed his position at CPA-SC**
 - **Assisted LTC Wheeler in the delivery of military weapons to Stein**
- **Known Payments Received:**
 - **May have received up to \$330,000.00**
 - **Personally transported at least \$80,000.00 from Iraq to CONUS upon completion of her deployment for home improvements (deck and a hot tub)**
 - **Received Business Class airline tickets from Kuwait to CONUS and a 2005 Cadillac Escalade from Bloom**
 - **Received two .45 caliber pistols from Stein**



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LTC Debra M. Harrison (cont.)

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 - 18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy)
 - 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956-1957 (Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)
 - Additional charges may be added
- **Arrested 15 December 2005 in Trenton, NJ**
 - Cooperating with SIGIR and DoJ
 - Suspended by Army SDO 20 December 2005



Questions?



“Our Army at War: Relevant and Ready”